

**Listing of Claims**

1. (previously presented) A method for simultaneous editing of at least a portion of a printed circuit board (PCB) design by multiple users, comprising:

transmitting the PCB design portion to first and second clients for graphical display at each of the clients;

transmitting, for display at each of the clients, a protection boundary associated with a PCB design object being edited at the first client; and

rejecting a request from the second client to edit an object within a region bounded by the protection boundary.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the protection boundary comprises the object being edited at the first client.

3. (previously presented) A method for editing a printed circuit board (PCB) master design during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the same PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, comprising:

transmitting the PCB master design portion to the first and second users at respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, the graphical displays including representations of PCB artwork corresponding to the PCB master design portion;

receiving, during the editing session, a first edit request from the first client and a second edit request from the second client;

applying the first and second edit requests to the PCB master design; and

transmitting synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on the first and second clients during the editing session to reflect the first and second edits.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a subsequent edit request from the first client to edit an object in the PCB master design portion; and

locking the object so as to prevent editing of the object based on a request received from the second client.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein:  
at least one of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to selection of an object and a command,

the object is at least one of a route, a component, a trace, a via, text, and a drawing object, and

the command is at least one of move left, move right, delete and add.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
placing the first and second edit requests in a queue; and  
applying the first and second edit requests on a first-in-first-out (FIFO) basis.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the PCB master design portion comprises an entire PCB design.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
determining if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said determining if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request comprises at least one of:

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a spacing rule,

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a geometry rule, and

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a connectivity rule.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein:  
one of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to the first or second user selecting, moving, and then releasing a first object, and  
another of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to the first or second user selecting a second object and then moving the second object to a graphically represented deletion area.

11. (previously presented) A method for editing a printed circuit board (PCB) master design during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the same PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, comprising:

transmitting the PCB master design portion to the first and second users at respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, the graphical displays including representations of PCB artwork corresponding to the PCB master design portion;

receiving, during the editing session, a first edit request from the first client and a second edit request from the second client;

applying the first edit request to the PCB master design;

transmitting synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on the first and second clients during the editing session to reflect the application of the first edit request;

determining if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request; and

reporting a conflict between the first and second edit requests to the second client.

12. (previously presented) A server for receiving and processing requests to edit a printed circuit board (PCB) master design during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the same PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, comprising:

a database for maintaining the master design;

connections to first and second clients; and  
a processor configured to:  
transmit the PCB design portion to first and second clients for graphical display at each of the clients,  
transmit, for display at each of the clients, a protection boundary associated with a PCB design object being edited at the first client, and  
reject a request from the second client to edit an object within a region bounded by the protection boundary.

13. (previously presented) The server of claim 12, wherein the protection boundary comprises the object being edited at the first client.

14. (previously presented) A server for receiving and processing requests to edit a printed circuit board (PCB) master design during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the same PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, comprising:

a database for maintaining the master design;  
connections to first and second clients; and  
a processor configured to:  
transmit the PCB master design portion to the first and second users at the respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, the graphical displays including representations of PCB artwork corresponding to the PCB master design portion,  
receive, during the editing session, a first edit request from the first client and a second edit request from the second client,  
apply the first and second edit requests to the PCB master design, and  
transmit synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on the first and second clients during the editing session to reflect the first and second edits.

15. (previously presented) The server of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to:

receive a subsequent edit request from the first client to edit an object in the PCB master design portion, and

lock the object so as to prevent editing of the object based on a request received from the second client.

16. (previously presented) The server of claim 14, wherein:  
at least one of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to selection of an object and a command,

the object is at least one of a route, a component, a trace, a via, text, and a drawing object, and

the command is at least one of move left, move right, delete and add.

17. (previously presented) The server of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to:

place the first and second edit requests in a queue; and

apply the first and second edit requests on a first-in-first-out (FIFO) basis.

18. (previously presented) The server of claim 14, wherein the PCB master design portion comprises an entire PCB design.

19. (previously presented) The server of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to:

determine if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request.

20. (previously presented) The server of claim 19, wherein the processor is configured to determine if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request by:

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a spacing rule,

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a geometry rule, and

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a connectivity rule.

21. (previously presented) The server of claim 14, wherein:

one of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to the first or second user selecting, moving, and then releasing a first object, and

another of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to the first or second user selecting a second object and then moving the second object to a graphically represented deletion area.

22. (previously presented) A server for receiving and processing requests to edit a printed circuit board (PCB) master design during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the same PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, comprising:

a database for maintaining the master design;

connections to first and second clients; and

a processor configured to:

transmit the PCB master design portion to the first and second users at respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, the graphical displays including representations of PCB artwork corresponding to the PCB master design portion,

receive, during the editing session, a first edit request from the first client and a second edit request from the second client,

apply the first edit request to the PCB master design,

transmit synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on the first and second clients during the editing session to reflect the application of the first edit request,  
determine if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request, and  
report a conflict between the first and second edit requests to the second client.

23. (previously presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform steps comprising:

transmitting a printed circuit board (PCB) design portion to first and second clients for graphical display at each of the clients;

transmitting, for display at each of the clients, a protection boundary associated with a PCB design object being edited at the first client; and

rejecting a request from the second client to edit an object within a region bounded by the protection boundary.

24. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the protection boundary comprises the object being edited at the first client.

25. (previously presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform steps comprising:

transmitting a PCB master design portion during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the same PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, wherein:

the PCB master design portion is transmitted to the first and second users at respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, and

the graphical displays include representations of PCB artwork corresponding to the PCB master design portion;

receiving, during the editing session, a first edit request from the first client and a second edit request from the second client;

applying the first and second edit requests to the PCB master design; and

transmitting synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on the first and second clients during the editing session to reflect the first and second edits.

26. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 25, comprising further instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving a subsequent edit request from the first client to edit an object in the PCB master design portion; and

locking the object so as to prevent editing of the object based on a request received from the second client.

27. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 25, wherein:  
at least one of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to selection of an object and a command,

the object is at least one of a route, a component, a trace, a via, text, and a drawing object, and

the command is at least one of move left, move right, delete and add.

28. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 25, comprising further instructions for performing steps comprising:

placing the first and second edit requests in a queue; and

accepting the first and second edit requests on a first-in-first-out (FIFO) basis.

29. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 25, wherein the PCB master design portion comprises an entire PCB design.



30. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 25, comprising further instructions for performing steps comprising:

determining if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request.

31. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 30, wherein said determining if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request comprises at least one of:

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a spacing rule,

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a geometry rule, and

determining whether acceptance of both the first and second edit requests will violate a connectivity rule.

32. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 25, wherein:  
one of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to the first or second user selecting, moving, and then releasing a first object, and

another of the edit requests is automatically generated in response to the first or second user selecting a second object and then moving the second object to a graphically represented deletion area.

33. (previously presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform steps comprising:

transmitting a PCB master design portion during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the same PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, wherein:

the PCB master design portion is transmitted to the first and second users at respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, and

the graphical displays include representations of PCB artwork corresponding to the PCB master design portion;

receiving, during the editing session, a first edit request from the first client and a second edit request from the second client;

applying the first edit request to the PCB master design;

transmitting synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on the first and second clients during the editing session to reflect the application of the first edit request;

determining if the first edit request conflicts with the second edit request; and

reporting a conflict between the first and second edit requests to the second client.

34. (previously presented) A method for editing a printed circuit board (PCB) master design, comprising:

displaying on first and second clients a graphical representation of PCB artwork corresponding to a PCB master design portion;

editing the PCB master design portion from the first client during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users at the respective first and second clients may edit the PCB master design portion and view edits made to the PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session;

editing the PCB master design portion from the second client during the editing session;

updating the display of the first client, during the editing session, to reflect one or more edits made from the second client during the editing session; and

updating the display of the second client, during the editing session, to reflect one or more edits made from the first client during the editing session.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

locking an object within the PCB master design portion upon selection of said object at the first client; and

preventing, based on said selection, editing of the object from the second client.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein:  
at least one of the edits is automatically generated in response to selection of an object and a command,  
the object is at least one of a route, a component, a trace, a via, text, and a drawing object, and  
the command is at least one of move left, move right, delete and add.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising:  
receiving at one of the first and second clients a report of a conflict between third and fourth edits respectively attempted from the first and second clients.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the PCB master design portion comprises the entire PCB master design.

39. (new) A method for editing a printed circuit board (PCB) master design during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit exclusive sub-portions of a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, comprising:

transmitting the PCB master design portion to the first and second users at respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, the PCB master design portion including first and second exclusive sub-portions, the graphical displays on each of said clients including representations of PCB artwork corresponding to both the first and second exclusive sub-portions;

receiving edit requests from the first and second clients during the editing session;  
accepting requests from the first client to edit the first exclusive sub-portion;  
accepting requests from the second client to edit the second exclusive sub-portion;  
rejecting requests from the first client to edit the second exclusive sub-portion;  
rejecting requests from the second client to edit the first exclusive sub-portion; and  
transmitting synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on each of the first and second clients during the

editing session to reflect application of the accepted edit requests to the respective first and second exclusive sub-portions.

40. (new) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform steps comprising:

transmitting a PCB master design portion during an editing session throughout which each of first and second users may edit exclusive sub-portions of a PCB master design portion and view edits made to the PCB master design portion by the other of the first and second users during the editing session, wherein:

the PCB master design portion includes first and second exclusive sub-portions and is transmitted to the first and second users at respective first and second clients for graphical display on each of said clients, and

the graphical displays on each of said clients include representations of PCB artwork corresponding to both the first and second exclusive sub-portions;

receiving edit requests from the first and second clients during the editing session;

accepting requests from the first client to edit the first exclusive sub-portion;

accepting requests from the second client to edit the second exclusive sub-portion;

rejecting requests from the first client to edit the second exclusive sub-portion;

rejecting requests from the second client to edit the first exclusive sub-portion; and

transmitting synchronization data to the first and second clients, the synchronization data permitting update of the graphical displays on each of the first and second clients during the editing session to reflect application of the accepted edit requests to the respective first and second exclusive sub-portions.